Value of Rupee

286. SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present value of the rupee in comparison to its value in 1947-48;

(b) how far the value of the rupee has decreased during the last three financial years; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to stabilise the value of the rupee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) The purchasing power of the Rupee measured as the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers in August, 1987 (latest available) works out to 9.78 paise with 1947 as the base.

(b) The purchasing power of the rupee on a point to point basis, declined by 4.8 per cent in 1984-85, by 8.15 per cent in 1985-86 and 6.96 per cent in 1986-87.

(c) The anti-inflationary policy being followed by Government includes effective demand and supply management like strengthening of Public Distribution System, allocation of additional stocks of foodgrans to drought affected areas, augmenting domestic availability of essential commodities like sugar, edible oils, pulses and mopping up excess liquidity in the system. The Central Government has also advised the State Governments to take strict action against traders indulging in profiteering, hoarding and blackmarketeering.

Supply of Yarn to Weavers

287. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to supply yarn directly to the weavers at subsidised rates so that they could meet the rising cost of production; and

(b) what steps Government are taking to help the weavers in these drought conditions?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to assist the weavers in drought affected areas, the Central Government have advised the State Governments to incorporate programmes and schemes for relief of distress of handloom weavers in the drought relief proposals prepared by them. In addition, the following instructions have also been issued:

(i) State Government should make firm arrangements for pooling of yarn produced by spinning mills in State/Cooperative Sector, and fix the yarn price at reasonable levels as is being done in Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh for supply to the handloom sector.

(ii) State Governments should formulate a long-term plan for supply of raw materials to handloom weavers based on the requirements of the handloom sector and communicate the same to the National Handloom Development Corporation for arranging regular supplies.

(iii) As instructions have been issued to the National Textile Corboration (NTC) to sell yarn at millgate prices to State Handloom Organisations and to open yarn depots, wherever possible, the State Governments should get in touch with NTC for supply of yarn and for opening of yarn depots.

Devaluation of the Rupee

288. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to devalue the rupee in order to augment export; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FIN-